

SICK CALL STILLS JOY ON WARSHIPS

Captain of the Wyoming
Believed To Be Victim
of Subtle Poison.

TARS "HOME AGAIN" AFTER LONG TRIP

Shore Leave of Men Curtailed by
Mexican Situation—Had
Good Cruise.

There was sorrow when the great ships of the American navy reached port yesterday, as well as much rejoicing. Officers and men were glad to reach home, but there was sadness on the Wyoming, for Captain Frederick Chapin was carried down the gangplank and taken to the Marine Hospital. He is very ill.

Every officer and man hopes that Captain Chapin will recover, but the result is doubtful.

The captain was taken ill following a severe blow, or a "whole gale," as sailors call a storm. His ailment is not yet definitely described by the physicians. It was thought, however, that he had been poisoned.

Captain Chapin himself would be the first to tell the men to go ashore and enjoy themselves, for on account of his illness, the order was given by Rear Admiral Charles J. Badger.

The sailors will not, however, get the furlough they expected. The Mexican situation will hold them close to the big sea fighters, and the men will receive only a few hours' shore leave, while waiting for orders from the Navy Department.

The Wyoming, the Arkansas, the Utah and the Florida, components of one of the finest squadrons in the world, reached here yesterday from the long Mediterranean cruise. The first two came in to the Cob Dock at the Brooklyn yard, while the other two stopped at Tompkinsville.

Among those present on the flagship Wyoming was Lowrey.

Lowrey is the only member of the crew who had serious trouble aboard, and he won that fracas. As evidence of the fact that he was glad to get back home he bitterly resented the throwing of a rope to the deck of the Wyoming, and, seizing one end of it, ran nimbly around the feet of Lieutenant D. C. Patterson and tripped him to the deck.

Lowrey is a splendid bull pup, the mascot of the battleship, and was given to Lieutenant Patterson by William Frazer Gibson, of New York.

At Villefranche Lowrey got shore leave, the same as other members of the company. He thought he could do anything he did, so when another dog snarled at him Lowrey argued with him in the only way he knew—tooth and toenail.

They say that the challenger will have to be patched up before he again appears in public dog society.

The Wyoming's mascot has taken a peculiar distaste for one of the starboard five-inch guns, and whenever the breechblock is opened or pulled out, or whatever they do to it, he seizes it and barks mightily over the affair.

When the fleet left Villefranche it was heartily cheered. The people came out in boats and gave the Americans a noisy "Bon voyage," while the warships' bands played merrily.

"Thanksgiving Day," said Trumpeter E. H. Cooper, of the Wyoming, "we had calls from the Italian officers at Naples, and responded with a series of athletic stunts that seemed to please them very much."

In relating some of the incidents that happened abroad Trumpeter Cooper said: "Four sailors were sitting in a barroom at Villefranche, and one of them pulled out a considerable roll of money. It looked good to the proprietors of the place, and they accused the men of robbing the cash register and had them taken to the police station and searched. Then there was no cash register there, nor had there been. They were discharged, of course."

"But that didn't satisfy the men. They went back to inquire about their treatment, and a bartender pulled a gun on one of them. The latter promptly framed a chair around the bartender's countenance and now he has the revolver as a spoil of war."

"In Malta a cab driver was hired by two of the men and charged them too much. They called a policeman, got their ride free and had the driver fined."

Captain Kilgore, of the marines, joined the group and refused to be quoted, but somebody said—somebody said—that in the Strait of Messina a dolphin fifteen feet long raced the Wyoming to a standstill. Not only that, but the fish made sport of the matter by crossing and recrossing the ship's bows.

Rear Admiral Badger was tired out with a strenuous day's work yesterday afternoon and took a nap. He had much to do when his fleet reached harbor and was visited by many friends. Besides that he had a world of routine matters to look after.

Ensign Blankenship did not want his name printed, so that's why it is withheld. This is not for publication, neither is the fact that he told a number of interesting incidents of the voyage. He did not tell about a race between five of the men, on wheels, between Monte Carlo and somewhere, when one of them was about to be run over by a speeder and had to jump in front of a car—evidently preferring a clumsy death. However, the sailor was not much hurt, but his clothes were soon given to a ragpicker.

Altogether, officers and men were delighted with their experiences abroad, but as one of those given shore liberty said yesterday: "God bless us, we're back in His own country!"

"MYSTERY SHIP" LAUNCHED

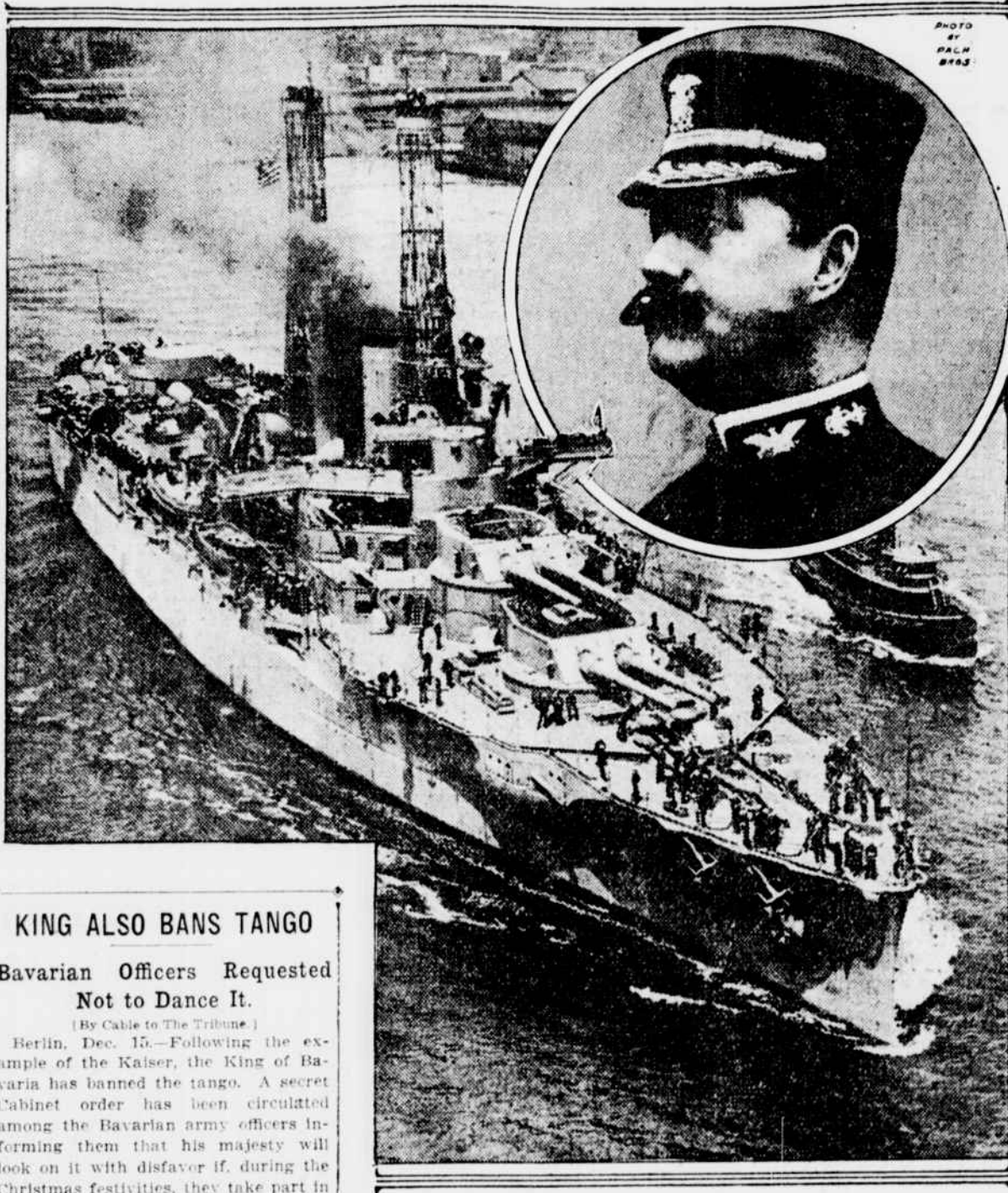
Details of British Battle Cruiser
Secret—100,000 Horsepower.

Glasgow, Dec. 15.—The British battle cruiser Tiger, known as the "mystery ship," was launched to-day at the Clydebank shipbuilding works, where her keel plate was laid on June 20, 1912.

*Details of the new vessel have been guarded most strictly by the Admiralty. It is known, however, that her engines are designed to give the hitherto unattempted horsepower of 100,000, calculated to develop a speed which will eclipse that of any naval vessel afloat.

Unofficial reports give the Tiger's dimensions as: Length over all 700 feet; beam, 90 feet; displacement, about 30,000 tons. Her armament is said to comprise eight 13.5 inch guns in pairs in turrets on centre line and twelve 6-inch guns in casemates, with two 21 inch submerged torpedo tubes.

THE BATTLESHIP WYOMING AND CAPTAIN FREDERICK CHAPIN.



KING ALSO BANS TANGO

Bavarian Officers Requested
Not to Dance It.

(By Cable to The Tribune.)

Berlin, Dec. 15.—Following the example of the Kaiser, the King of Bavaria has banned the tango. A secret Cabinet order has been circulated among the Bavarian army officers informing them that his majesty will look on it with disfavor if, during the Christmas festivities, they take part in entertainments at which the tango is danced. The order states:

"The King regards participation in such a dance as undignified and unworthy of an officer. Officers must always remember the dignity of their positions even when enjoying themselves in company."

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U. S. MAY RIVAL TELEGRAPH LINES

House Measure Aims to
Acquire 'Phone Co.'s Wires
to Send Telegrams.

\$100,000,000 ANNUAL
PROFIT ESTIMATED

Cost of Acquisition a Billion—
Long Distance Rates To
Be Cut Down.

(From The Tribune Bureau.)

Washington, Dec. 15.—After months of investigation, aided by employees of the Postoffice Department, Representative David J. Lewis, of Maryland, co-author of the present parcel post law, to-day perfected his bill for the acquisition by the government of the telephone systems of the country. The bill will not provide for the immediate taking over of the telephone companies.

The bill cannot be labelled at this time an administration measure, but Mr. Lewis's efforts to work out a system of government ownership of telephone lines has at least had the good wishes of the administration. There are reports that the administration may go even further than Mr. Lewis now proposes in its acquisition of message-carrying utilities.

For several months, it is learned, Mr. Lewis has had a private office in the Postoffice Department, where he worked in seclusion.

When the Lewis bill is introduced it will provide for the taking over by the government of the long distance and local systems of the American Bell and independent companies, but will not contemplate the acquisition of the Western Union and Postal Telegraph lines.

It is proposed, however, that the government shall go into the business of handling telegraph messages by attaching instruments to acquired telephone wires, using the telephone copper circuits for both telegrams and telephone messages.

It is estimated that almost a billion dollars will be needed for the acquisition, by purchase or condemnation, of the telephone lines of the country.

Mr. Lewis will offer in support of his bill a carefully prepared statement of the rate charges prevailing in this country for telephone and telegraph service. The American rates will be compared with European rates, to the disadvantage of the domestic systems.

The Maryland Representative, a student of express, telephone and telegraph rates, advocates that the purchase of the telephone lines by the gov-

ernment shall be conducted by the Interstate Commerce Commission.

It is proposed that the commission shall appraise the value of the telephone systems, the government meanwhile to pay 4 per cent interest on the stocks of the telephone lines.

When the value shall have been ascertained by the Interstate Commerce Commission the United States is to issue 3 per cent bonds with which to purchase the lines. Stockholders are to have the option of taking bonds instead of cash for their holdings.

The Lewis plan calls for an ultimate reduction of the local rates, with an immediate reduction in the charge for the long distance service performed. It is proposed to allow the local rates to stand until the new owners of the telephone lines have opportunity to ascertain the actual earning capacity of the property, following the precedent established when the parcel post was put in operation.

It is roughly estimated that the government should earn annually at least \$100,000,000 from the Bell lines when operated for telephone and telegraph services. It is held that the telephone lines reach practically every section of the country and that there may be competition with the telegraph companies without going to the expense of taking them over. It is tentatively proposed that the flat rate for telegraph messages for distances of 300 miles or less shall be one cent a word.

Mr. Lewis will advance the novel idea that postage stamps may be used in payment for government handled telegraph messages. The stamps would be affixed to the message, thus minimizing the cost of accounting.

LLOYD GEORGE NEWS SHOCK

London Can't Get Over Trib-
une's Disclosures.

(By Cable to The Tribune.)

London, Dec. 15.—London cannot get over the surprise caused by The Tribune's disclosure that David Lloyd George, Jr., was associated with Lord Murray of Elibank in a financial expedition to secure oil concessions in Central and South America.

A remarkable fact is that nothing ever appeared in the newspapers about the doings of this young man until now. The name of his brother, who has just left school for the university, is constantly mentioned as that of a promising Rugby football player.

The Tribune's disclosure served to recall the Marconi scandal, in which, it will be remembered, Lord Murray and the Chancellor of the Exchequer were involved.

In the circumstances, special interest is lent to the announcement that Lord Murray is coming home at last, as it was thought here that he was hardly likely to make any statement before he reached England. What the people here want to know is whether Lord Cowdray and Lord Murray are going to take this defeat lying down.

ITALIANS RESENT PICTURE'S RETURN

Crowds Endanger Uffizi Statuary
—No Trace of Thief's Sweet-
heart, Mathilde.

(By Cable to The Tribune.)

Florence, Dec. 15.—So great is the crowd of people striving to obtain a view of "Mona Lisa" that the authorities have been obliged to remove many of the busts and statues from the Uffizi Gallery to prevent them from being overturned and broken in the struggle to get near the picture.

Resentment is expressed in many quarters at the action of the Italian government in returning the picture to France.

Two officials of the Paris police arrived here to-day to investigate the circumstances surrounding the recovery of "Mona Lisa." Difficulties are arising with reference to the procedure in the examination of Vincenzo Perugia because the crime was committed outside Italian territory. The French police officials can neither interrogate Perugia nor be present at his examination.

Paris, Dec. 15.—Efforts of the French police to find the girl who signed the name Mathilde to the love letters found in the room of Vincenzo Perugia after his arrest at Florence for the theft of "Mona Lisa" from the Louvre so far have been fruitless. Mathilde, who has been described as an exceedingly beautiful girl, the image of "Mona Lisa," is known to have disappeared suddenly several months ago.

An examination of the love missives found among Perugia's effects reveals that Mathilde's French was defective. She, presumably, is of foreign birth, possibly German.

The Prefect of Paris, Celestin Hennion, has ordered a searching inquiry into the manner in which the police investigation was conducted at the time of the theft of the "Mona Lisa." He has been compelled to take this course in consequence of a report of M. Bertillon, throwing the whole responsibility for the failure to identify Perugia on the detective department. Although the detectives examined Perugia and knew his police record, yet they omitted to furnish to the fingerprint department his name with those of the other persons, to the number of 267, who had worked in the Louvre.

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